Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00513 301556Z

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 SY-04 USSS-00 A-01

/036 W
---------- 114088
O P 301545Z APR 74
FM USINT DAMASCUS
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIAT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0427
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0513

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (HENRY A KISSINGER), SY
SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR SECSTATE VISIT

1. EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 30) FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL CHIEF NAHLAWI ASKED ME TO HIS OFFICE FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT AND PARTICULARLY THE MATTER OF THE SCHEDULE.

2. AT THE PRESENT TIME IT APPEARS THAT THE SECRETARY WILL PROCEED DIRECTLY TO THE GUEST HOUSE FROM THE AIRPORT. AFTER ABOUT A 15 MINUTE REST BREAK, THE SECRETARY WILL GO ON TO THE PALACE FOR HIS FIRST WORKING SESSION WITH THE PRESIDENT. THERE IS NOTHING ELSE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN VIEW OF THE GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE SHUTTLING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV AT LEAST FOR ONE ROUND.

3. NAHLAWI INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT PROTOCOL WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME IDEA IF AND WHEN MRS KISSINGER WILL BE ARRIVING SO AS TO PLAN A SCHEDULE FOR HER OR FOR BOTH DR KISSINGER AND MRS KISSINGER TOGETHER. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS GIVING CONSIDERATION IN PRINCIPLE TO A VISIT TO THE OMAYAD MOSQUE, TO DAMASCUS MUSEUM
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00513 301556Z

AS WELL AS TO PALMYRA. IN ADDITION, IF MRS KISSINGER

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SO DESIRES A VISIT TO THE SOUK CAN ALSO BE ARRANGED
SEPARATELY. I INDICATED TO MR NAHLAWI THAT
THESE IDEAS SOUND EXCELLENT AND THAT I WOULD BE BACK IN
TOUCH AS SOON AS I HAD FIRM INDICATION AS TO MRS
KISSINGER'S PLANS AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE SECRETARY
FOLLOWING THE SHUTTLE PHASE.

4. FOR THE REST OF THE PARTY NO DEFINITE SCHEDULE IS
FORTHCOMING. WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW, HOWEVER, IS IF THE GROUP
WILL BE HAVING LUNCH EITHER IN TEL AVIV OR IN THE AIR PRIOR
TO ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS ON FRIDAY. MY CONTROL OFFICER
LEE WAS TALKING TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACT, WHO
IS IN CHARGE OF MOST OF THE ARRANGEMENTS,
AND THINGS SEEM TO BE HEADING TOWARDS A LUNCH FOR THE
PRESS AND DIGNITARIES AFTER THEY LAND, DEPENDING ON
THE ARRIVAL TIME. IN ANY EVENT WE ARE NOT PRESSING THE
ISSUE AND ARE ONLY GUIDING THE FONOFF WHEN AND WHERE
WE CAN. THEREFORE, INFORMATION ABOUT LUNCHEON PLANS,
IF ANY, PRIOR TO ARRIVAL WILL BE MOST HELPFUL, AS WELL
AS MRS KISSINGER'S PLANS IF THEY HAVE BEEN FIRMED
UP.
SCOTES

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